

31 OCT 1950

TOP SECRET

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GENERAL

1. Chinese Communist troops in Korea--US Embassy Seoul transmits the estimate of US Eighth Army headquarters that, although information is still "sketchy," and confirmation is lacking, two regiments of Chinese Communist troops may be engaged in the Eighth Army sector. Eighth Army headquarters has not yet definitely established whether these Chinese Communist troops are fighting as independent units or are "sandwiched" among North Korean forces. A later field report states that POW's captured north of Hamhung identified their unit as the Chinese Communist 124th Division. The POW's, who were wearing new cold-weather uniforms, spoke in the Peiping and North Manchurian dialects and said that their unit had entered Korea on or about 16 October.

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(CIA Comment: There probably are small numbers of Chinese Communist troops currently operating in Korea, but CIA does not believe that the appearance of these Chinese Communist soldiers indicates that the Chinese Communists intend to intervene directly or openly in the Korean war.)

EUROPE

2. AUSTRIA: Government holds firm in police case--According to US High Commissioner Donnelly in Vienna, the Austrians are maintaining a firm attitude in the case of the dismissed Communist police chiefs, who are still occupying their posts. Donnelly reports that Austrian Minister of Interior Helmer is proceeding "determinedly, if cautiously," with a judicial investigation of the dismissed chiefs. Soviet Commandant Sviridov asked Austrian Chancellor Figl and Helmer if it would not be possible to call off the investigation, or at least to terminate it with administrative reprimands rather than dismissal from office;

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- 1 -

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the Austrian officials replied that the cases must be settled according to the findings of the disciplinary court. During the course of the discussion, Sviridov insisted that the Soviet authorities must have a veto over police changes in the Soviet zone and sector, but the Austrians flatly refused this demand. Helmer has intimated that the court may order the dismissal of three of the police chiefs, and lesser penalties for the other two. Figl believes that the USSR wishes to avoid a discussion of the police case at the next meeting of the Allied Council.

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FAR EAST

3. TIBET: Reported Chinese Communist invasion--US Embassy New Delhi has learned that Panikkar, Indian Ambassador to China, "first heard of the Tibet invasion" on 25 October over the All-India radio and on the same day received a Peiping handout on the subject "couched in almost identical terms."

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(CIA Comment: Up to the present, Peiping has issued no announcement of an invasion of Tibet other than that reported by Panikkar. On 24 October, however, Chungking did issue a "political mobilization order" calling on troops in West China to prepare themselves for the mission of liberating Tibet. Moreover, press reports indicate that Chinese Communist troops, which have been located for several months in the eastern part of Sikang Province near Tibet, are again moving westward. However, these troops are still east of Tibet proper and they can be engaged either in completing occupation of Sikang or in preparing to invade Tibet. Until the Communist invasion of Tibet is confirmed, CIA is inclined to view present reports of the invasion as a Peiping effort to prod the Lhasa Government into prompt agreement to Chinese Communist demands.)

- 2 -

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Indian views on Tibet invasion--US Ambassador
Henderson in New Delhi expresses the opinion that the reported Chinese Communist invasion of Tibet will not, in the end, result in any change in Prime Minister Nehru's policy toward Peiping. Henderson believes that Nehru is chagrined at the Chinese Communist Government's willingness to expose India to embarrassment over the Tibet issue and expects that various of Nehru's colleagues will make use of Peiping's maneuver in urging a more friendly Indian attitude toward the US. Nevertheless, Henderson feels that Nehru is still too "enmeshed" in his attempts to bring Communist China into an Asiatic bloc to abandon such efforts at this time. Henderson adds that Nehru quite possibly might attempt to divert Indian attention from Tibet by criticizing the Western Powers, perhaps even attributing a Peiping decision to invade Tibet to fears inspired by the US attitude toward Communist China.

- 3 -

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